

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT : ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NINTH SED PARTEITAG FOR MAY, 1976,  
AND ROLITBUERO REPORT TO THE 14TH MEETING OF THE SED  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY: AT THE 14TH MEETING OF THE SED CENTRAL  
COMMITTEE ON JUNE 5, 1975, FIRST SECRETARY ERICH  
HONECKER ANNOUNCED THAT THE NINTH SED PARTEITAG WOULD BE  
HELD IN BERLIN FROM MAY 18-22, 1976. AT THE SAME  
TIME, HE ANNOUNCED THAT SED PARTY ELECTIONS WOULD  
TAKE PLACE IN THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 1, 1975,  
THROUGH APRIL 4, 1976, FOR THE LEADERSHIP POSTS IN  
THE BASIC SED ORGANIZATIONS (GRUND ORGANISATIONEN)  
AND FOR LOCAL AND DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS. HONECKER'S  
STATEMENT WAS FOLLOWED ON THE FOLLOWING DAY IN NEUES  
DEUTSCHLAND BY THE REPORT OF THE SED POLITBUERO TO  
THE 14TH MEETING OF THE SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE.  
HONECKER'S ADDRESS TAKES UP ONE FULL PAGE IN NEUES  
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DEUTSCHLAND AND THE POLITBUERO REPORT COVERS FIVE

FULL NEWSPAPER PAGES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MAIN POINTS OF HONECKER'S SPEECH ARE:

A) A DIRECT CONNECTION IS DRAWN BETWEEN THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION IN FEBRUARY, 1976, AND THE MEETING OF THE SED IN MAY. THE SPEECH IS SPRINKLED THROUGHOUT WITH REFERENCES TO THE COOPERATION AND COMMON GOALS IN BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SHARED BY THE GDR WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME, HONECKER STATES THAT THE GDR IS A "SOVEREIGN, INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED SOCIALIST STATE" WHICH IS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND MAINTAINS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH 115 FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

B. THE SPEECH IS ALSO REplete WITH REFERENCES TO THE DESIRE OF THE GDR GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FOR THE MATERIAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE POPULATION ON THE BASIS THAT ONE OF THE PRIMARY GOALS OF THE STATE IS TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF ITS CITIZENS.

C) HONECKER NOTES THAT IMPERIALISM, "DESPITE ITS BEING ON THE DEFENSIVE" AROUND THE WORLD, HAS NOT CHANGED ITS CHARACTER. HE STATES THAT THERE EXIST IMPERIALISTIC "CIRCLES" WHO ARE CONTINUALLY STRIVING TO "BURY" THE RELAXATION OF TENSIONS AND TO PROMOTE THE ARMS RACE. IT IS THE GDR'S DUTY TO BE "EVER WATCHFUL" AGAINST THE THREAT OF IMPERIALISM.

D) IN ONE SECTION OF THE ADDRESS, HONECKER EMPHASIZES THE NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH

CAPITALISTIC COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

3. THE MAIN PORTION OF THE POLITBUERO REPORT TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WAS PRESENTED BY GERHARD GUENEBERG, SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IT IS A VERY

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LONG AND TURGID REVIEW OF EVENTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO. THIS REPORT RECAPITULATES UNDER THE HEADING "FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH CAPITALISTIC STATES" THE TWO VOLKSKAMMER DELEGATION VISITS EARLIER THIS YEAR TO JAPAN AND FRANCE RESPECTIVELY BUT DOES NOT DEAL IN ANY DETAIL WITH THE RESULT OF THESE DELEGATION VISITS. IN THIS SAME SECTION, MENTION IS

MADE OF THE CONCLUSION OF CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH

BOTH AUSTRIA AND FINLAND. ANOTHER POINT OF INTEREST IS A SECTION ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN BERLIN SOME TIME IN 1975. AGAIN, THE REPORT MERELY STATES THE FACT THAT THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THIS CONFERENCE MET IN BERLIN IN FEBRUARY AND AGAIN IN APRIL TO PREPARE A "FINAL" DOCUMENT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS.

4. HONECKER ANNOUNCED DURING HIS SPEECH THAT THE SED NOW HAS 1.9 MILLION MEMBERS OF WHOM 169,000 HAVE JOINED THE PARTY SINCE THE LAST SED PARTEITAG IN MAY, 1971.

5. COMMENT: THESE REPORTS SUGGEST THAT THE HONECKER POLICY BEGUN IN 1971, OF PROVIDING MORE CONSUMER GOODS AND A "BETTER LIFE" TO GDR CITIZENS, WILL BE CONTINUED. IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, THE SED ESPOUSES VIGILANCE AND MILITARY STRENGTH AS A REQUIREMENT FOR PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE. JUDGING BY THE EXAMPLES IN THE REPORTS OF GDR ACTIVITIES IN PROMOTING RELATIONS WITH CAPITALISTIC STATES, NO MUCH OF SUBSTANCE HAS HAPPENED OR IS EXPECTED TO HAPPEN IN THIS FIELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE. (VOLKSKAMMER VISITS ABROAD ARE MAINLY AN IMAGE-BUILDING EXERCISE FOR THE GDR AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ITS LEGISLATORS TO TRAVEL MORE BROADLY THAN BEFORE. THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTIONS, OF COURSE, ARE THE SEVERAL GDR-FRG NEGOTIATIONS NOW IN PROGRESS. GROVE

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